



Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: James Hahnenberg
(312) 353-4213

Legal Contact: Roger Grimes
(312) 886-6595

For Immediate Release: November 4, 1999

No. 99-OPA316

EPA: FOX RIVER STUDY RESULTS AVAILABLE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are making public today two, independent peer-review studies on cleanup of the Lower Fox River.

In September 1998, EPA's contractor selected experts and established two technical panels to review components of the draft Lower Fox River Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (cleanup plan). The first panel consisted of experts in Superfund data evaluation and decision making. A second panel included experts in natural recovery and behavior of toxic chemicals.

The Superfund data panel concluded that environmental information used to develop the cleanup plan supports moving ahead with a cleanup. The natural-recovery panel said that the natural-recovery option needed a more complete evaluation. Conclusions and recommendations of both panels will be evaluated and incorporated into the cleanup plan.

EPA and Wisconsin agree:

1. with the panels' conclusion that existing information on similar sediment cleanup projects is sufficient to make a final cleanup decision;
2. with the panels' assessments that the water-quality models used in the cleanup study appear to be appropriate for determining cleanup

alternatives;

3. that a better explanation on the models is needed in the cleanup study;
and

4. that further comparisons between natural recovery and other cleanup options are needed.

While technical evaluations show that the natural-recovery option for the Lower Fox River is unlikely to protect people's health and wildlife from PCB's, a more extensive evaluation of the option will be developed in the final draft of the study.

According to William Muno, EPA Region 5's Superfund Division director, the information in the reports will be used for completing the cleanup study. "We were very glad to have had this chance to review the peer-review reports," he said. "EPA and Wisconsin believe that these reports gave us some good information, which we'll use when completing the cleanup study and for developing a final cleanup plan."

Ed Lynch, Wisconsin's Project Manager who oversees development of the cleanup study, believes that the peer-review panel's results support several proposed changes to the plan as the cleanup study nears completion. "These ideas, as well as the work that is being completed by the model evaluation work group, will strengthen the assessment and results of the study and remediation plan selection effort."

The peer-review studies and other site information will be available at 10 local information repositories and at EPA's Web-site:
www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver.

###



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 353-2000 or
(800) 621-8431 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH and WI)

Page maintained by: [Kristen Tyrpin](#), Office of Public Affairs

Last Updated: 11/4/99 15:20

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news99/99opa316.htm>